

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of severing roots of bean sprouts using a severing table on which a plurality of ridges are formed at predetermined intervals, the ridges extending in parallel with a direction in which a cutter blade is moved, each ridge being formed with a number of severing slits each of which has such a width that a root of a bean sprout falls into each severing slit, the cutter blade being formed to be fitted with each ridge, the method comprising:

supplying the bean sprouts onto the severing table while a cutter blade is moved along an upper face of the severing table;

sprinkling water over the severing table so that roots of the bean sprouts on the severing table flow into the severing slits;

severing the roots of the bean sprouts fallen in the severing slits by a cutter blade; and

conveying the bean sprouts from which the roots have been severed, out of the severing table with movement of the cutter blade.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the severing table includes a flat portion between each ridge and the adjacent ridge, and each flat portion has a width substantially equal to or slightly larger than a length of a sprout of each bean sprout.

3. A method of severing roots of bean sprouts using a severing table on which a plurality of ridges are formed at

predetermined intervals, the ridges extending in parallel with a direction in which a cutter blade is moved, each ridge being formed with a number of severing slits each of which has such a width that a root of a bean sprout falls into each severing  
5 slit, the cutter blade being formed to be fitted with each ridge, the method comprising:

supplying the washed bean sprouts onto the severing table while a cutter blade is moved along an upper face of the severing table;

10 causing air to blow from above the severing table so that a flow of air flowing through the severing slits is produced thereby to cause the roots of the bean sprouts on the severing table to flow into the severing slits;

severing the roots of the bean sprouts fallen in the severing  
15 slits by a cutter blade while water adherent to the bean sprouts are being blown away by wind pressure downward from the severing slits; and

conveying the bean sprouts from which the roots have been severed, out of the severing table with movement of the cutter  
20 blade.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the severing table includes a flat portion between each ridge and the adjacent ridge, and each flat portion has a width substantially equal to  
25 or slightly larger than a length of a sprout of each bean sprout.

5. An apparatus for severing roots of bean sprouts comprising:

a severing table on which a plurality of ridges are formed at predetermined intervals, the ridges extending in parallel with a direction in which the bean sprouts are conveyed, each ridge being formed with a number of severing slits each of which  
5 has such a width that a root of a bean sprout falls into each severing slit;

a cutter blade moved along an upper side of the severing table in a same direction as the ridges extend, the cutter being formed to be fitted with each ridge;

10 a bean sprout supplying unit supplying the bean sprouts onto the severing table;

a sprinkling unit sprinkling water over the severing table so that the roots of the bean sprouts on the severing table flow into the severing slits; and

15 a cutter driving unit moving the severing blade along the upper side of the severing table so that the roots of the bean sprouts fallen in the severing slits are severed by the cutter blade and so that the bean sprouts from which the roots have been severed are conveyed out of the severing table with movement of  
20 the cutter blade.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the severing table includes a flat portion between each ridge and the adjacent ridge, and each flat portion has a width substantially equal to  
25 or slightly larger than a length of a sprout of each bean sprout.

7. An apparatus for severing roots of bean sprouts comprising:

a severing table on which a plurality of ridges are formed at predetermined intervals, the ridges extending in parallel with a direction in which the bean sprouts are conveyed, each ridge being formed with a number of severing slits each of which  
5 has such a width that a root of a bean sprout falls into each severing slit;

a cutter blade moved along an upper side of the severing table in a same direction as the ridges extend, the cutter being formed to be fitted with each ridge;

10 a bean sprout supplying unit supplying the washed bean sprouts onto the severing table;

a blowing unit blowing from above the severing table so that a flow of air flowing through the severing slits is produced, thereby causing the roots of the bean sprouts on the severing  
15 table to flow into the severing slits while water adherent to the bean sprouts are being blown away by wind pressure downward from the severing slits; and

a cutter driving unit moving the severing blade along the upper side of the severing table so that the roots of the bean  
20 sprouts fallen in the severing slits are severed by the cutter blade and so that the bean sprouts from which the roots have been severed are conveyed out of the severing table with movement of the cutter blade.

25 8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the severing table includes a flat portion between each ridge and the adjacent ridge, and each flat portion has a width substantially equal to or slightly larger than a length of a sprout of each bean sprout.